

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 15th May 2012** at The Old Aberdeen Town House, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Dewi Morgan (Web Admin & Newsletter Ed), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Gordon Mutch, Hilda Meers, Professor Rodger (Aberdeen University), Bryan Murray (Grampian Police), Kirsty MacDonald (Grampian Police), Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Ramsay Milne, Frouke Hermens, Jacinta Birchy, Clive Kempe, Hamish Mackay.

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), George Wood, Abdul Latif, Cllr Ross Grant.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved by Gordon Mutch and seconded by Dewi Morgan.

Matters Arising from Minutes

George Wood pursuing with Doug Richie the matter of the much flouted one-way system in Harrow Road.

3. Police Update

Sgt Brian Murray introduced himself and his colleague PC Kirsty MacDonald. Sgt Murray has been in our area for 4 months & he is now the longest serving Sgt in the Woodside/Tillydrone/Old Aberdeen area. The long-term team leader in our area Inspector Ed Fitzgibbon has moved on and been replaced by David Forsyth. Sgt Murray hoped we would see some stability in team members of the police in the future. Copies of the latest statistics from Storm & Crimefiles, 1st – 30th April, 2012 were distributed to all present. Sgt Murray stated that the Old Aberdeen statistics were very low apart from vandalism. A heartening aspect of the vandalism incidents however was that of the 10 cases, 9 had been solved.

The meeting on the 24th of April to discuss the building of a new 60 cell block unit near to the Northern Hotel was well attended.

CB thanked both police officers for their time & reports.

4. Professor Albert Rodger, Vice Principal External Affairs.

Prof Rodger was introduced by CB and thanked for coming to our meeting. Prof Rodger was very positive about the on-going success of Aberdeen University academically, culturally and as a business. AU was very satisfied with their recent funding from Scottish Government.

The University of Aberdeen are staging the British Science Festival in September. This is a huge public event for the university. The funding needed to host this festival is immense –

for the science festival £500,000. The University is taking a much more proactive approach to encourage festivals. This was part of strategic planning for the University to increase visibility.

Hamish Mackay asked why the Word Festival had been dropped from this year's calendar. Prof Rodgers replied that it would return in future years and that there was a smaller "Wee Word" festival taking place this year.

Hilda Meers complimented the University in the quality of the musical provision to the public. She recently listened to the Edinburgh Quartet at Kings Chapel.

Prof Rodgers stated that the university have been & will continue to be a major sponsor of Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

Cllr Ramsey Milne asked if there was a civic reception for the Science Festival – Prof Rodgers believed there was one planned.

The question was raised about what was planned for Kings Pavilion swimming pool once the new facilities at Linksfield were opened. Prof Rodgers said the university were undecided on the future use of this iconic building.

Conversation then turned to the university's position on & future plans for student accommodation. CK asked Prof Rodgers about this and the university attitude to multi occupancy housing (HMO's) however Clive did recognise that the council could not control this. Prof Rodger said that Leith Forsyth (Director of Student Affairs) would be better able to answer these questions.

CB asked Cllrs Noble & Milne about the council position on this. The reply was that a council employee Ali Thain was writing a paper. This paper will be discussed at a council committee and a position taken.

CB stated that following tree the felling incident on University Road it had been brought to her attention that the University were taking rather a long time to plant replacement trees for other trees felled.

Prof Rodger concluded by saying he wanted a successful relationship with the local community and that there should be no surprises for the Old Aberdeen community if this close relationship is maintained.

5) Planning Matters

Planning Applications –

120165 29, St. Machar Drive large extension application. OACC OBJECTED.
PENDING.

120477 & 120516 Chaplain's Court, 20 The Chanory, application for private dwelling house to have covered walkway extension, garden room and garage. **OBJECTED.**
Main problem is the garage.

CPZ: End of review period late May. CB to request an update from D Ritchie.

Scottish Government Planning Reform. DM is reviewing the report. GM & CB agreed they would also read & review this rather substantial report (deadline 22 June)

6. Treasurer's Report

IA notified delegates that OACC had received its council grant of £856.31 so with the £191.39 already in the account we had a healthy balance of £1,047.70. There were no bills outstanding apart from the Newsletter and Auditor's Gift Token (£30).

7. Seaton Park

A meeting was held on Saturday 21st April at 2.00p.m in the Dunbar Street Hall . DM organized & facilitating this highly successful and well-attended kick off meeting. Around 60 people attended the meeting and from this a committee was formed. There have been a couple of subsequent meetings and there will be a core committee of 6 with these reporting back to the main committee of 12 & then to the public. HM stated that “The Friends of Seaton Park” were working on a logo and that there would be a digital newsletter fortnightly. HM stated that the rubbish collected by members of the public in the park had eventually been taken away by the council but only after a telephone call to Simon Shaw. Cruickshank Botanical Garden Curator – Mark Patterson had offered support and a marquee if needed for events. Cllrs were asked if it would be appropriate use of the Common Good Fund to maintain & enhance Seaton Park? “Possibly” was the answer. Cllr Ramsey was asked about the attitude of the new administration to Seaton Park funding. He stated that in the short term budgets would remain as they are. CB stated that better signage at the entrances and a map would help to introduce the park to those who weren't so familiar with its layout. OACC are delighted by the formation of this new group “The Friends of Seaton Park.

8. Reports of Other Meetings

Third Don Crossing – a resident of Tillydrone (Glenn Morrison) had objected to the use of CPOs. One of the major parts of his objection is that there is no council budget to build this bridge and there is no serious possibility that this bridge will be built anytime soon. It was also hoped that with the new ruling council group (an alliance of Labour, Independent & Conservative Councillors) that consensus could be reached to squash these Third Don Crossing plans.

9. Scheme For The Establishment of Community Councils

CB and DM noted some of the main changes such as the single transferrable voting system and the six-month cut-off point for non-attendance.

DM stated that he would put together a proposal on amended Community Council boundaries and send it out to other Community Councillors for review – a quick response is needed as this needs to go forward by the end of May.

10. Correspondence

Notification on training courses available for Community Council members.

11. AOCB

Notice of the Olympic Torch Route. Arrives down Deeside on the 11th June & leaves Dyce on its way south on the 12th June. Expect traffic congestion along the route on the 12th June.

George Wood had asked about the removal of the Harrow Road bus stop on King St. CB to investigate the proximity of the closest stop.

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place at the Old Aberdeen Town House on Tuesday 19th June 2012 at 7.30p.m.